



## **NEWS RELEASE – Photo Opportunity**

Date: December 24, 2008  
Release Date: Immediately  
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**(Public Urged to Locate Water Shut-Off Valves; Media Invited to Demonstration)**

### **Media Demonstration: How to Safely Shut-Off Your Water in an Emergency**

**Date/Time: Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm**

**Home: 3095 NW 178<sup>th</sup>, Beaverton 97229**

**Interviewee: Jim Meierotto, Tualatin Valley Water District**

With temperatures now beginning to slowly warm, frozen water pipes that have burst may now be at risk. As water freezes, it expands. With enough expansion, pipes can develop cracks which are not apparent at first, but begin to leak as the ice melts. Based on past weather events, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue anticipates a multitude of 9-1-1 calls from concerned individuals experiencing this situation. *Never use a propane torch or an open flame to thaw a pipe due to the risk of igniting wood beams, flooring and other combustible materials around pipes. Instead, use a hair dryer or the exhaust of a vacuum cleaner.*

Homeowners should take time now to locate their water shut-off valves so they are prepared to mitigate this situation quickly themselves. **With the current demand on emergency services agencies, homeowners should only call 9-1-1 about water problems that are life threatening or hazardous.** If the frozen pipe or break is in a water line from the meter to your home, or inside your home, contact a professional plumber or water restoration company. If the frozen pipe or break is in the water line from the meter to the street, contact your water department. Homeowners should turn off their water before calling either of these services.

The easiest method of quickly shutting off your water involves closing a shut-off valve near your home. For safety reasons, turn off your hot water heater after you shut-off your water. (For assistance on how to restart your water heater, contact a plumber.) Look for your water shut-off valve in the following places:

- In the garage where the water line enters the wall, ceiling, or floor near the water heater or laundry hookup.
- Outside near the foundation, often protected by a concrete ring or clay pipe.
- In the crawl space or basement, where the water line enters the home.
- At your yard sprinkler system backflow device.

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